

Outdoor Recreation Providers and Programs

2001 Iowa SCORP

An outline map of the state of Iowa is positioned behind the text "2001 Iowa SCORP". The map shows the state's characteristic rectangular shape with its irregular borders.

PARTNERING WITH OTHERS

The DNR administers several outdoor recreation grant programs. Through these programs, the DNR is able to work with federal agencies, other state agencies, local governments, and public and private organizations as well. Working with others, outside of its own agency, has allowed the DNR to form several successful partnerships. Partnerships are essential when providing for outdoor recreation opportunities. The DNR understands that working together to provide outdoor recreation benefits all of Iowa.

The mission for the Parks, Recreation, and Preserves Division of the DNR states, "Providing leadership in outdoor recreation through good management, planning services, grant programs and other services."

Outdoor recreation grant programs administered by the DNR include:

Recreation Infrastructure Grant Program
Land and Water Conservation Fund
Resource, Enhancement, and Protection (REAP)
Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant Program
Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program
All-Terrain Vehicle Trail Grant Program
Snowmobile Trail Grant Program

The grant programs listed above are community based, meaning that assistance is available to cities, counties, and non-profit organizations and associations in the State of Iowa. Most programs require the applicant to cost share a portion of the project costs; the percentage required is program specific. Each program also has its own areas where funds are intended to be used, and careful consideration should be taken to ensure that a project fits the intent of the grant program being applied for. A brief explanation and a contact for each program listed

above can be found on page 36-41 of this document. All recreation grant programs administered by the DNR have been designed to address the mission and vision of the DNR while at the same time addressing the needs of the applicants. This approach provides benefits at local and statewide levels. Priority is based on SCORP priorities and criteria and goals that are program specific. These areas include, but are not limited to, public demand and need, quality of site or project, urgency of proposed project, multiple benefits, and conformance with local/regional and statewide plans. These are all typical areas that need to be addressed when applying for funds. Geographic distribution can also be an important factor. Efforts are taken to address recreational needs on the basis of location to ensure that all areas have access to grants to improve their recreational opportunities. Another very important factor to consider when applying for some grant funds is public/private participation. Extra consideration may also be given to projects that have contributions and benefits that extend beyond the community.

Land and Water Conservation Fund in Iowa

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federally funded program that creates partnerships at many levels. The funds are allocated to states to administer in the form of grants available to local governments (cities and counties). Private agencies and citizens often play a significant role in LWCF projects. Many partnerships are needed in order to realize successful projects through the LWCF program.

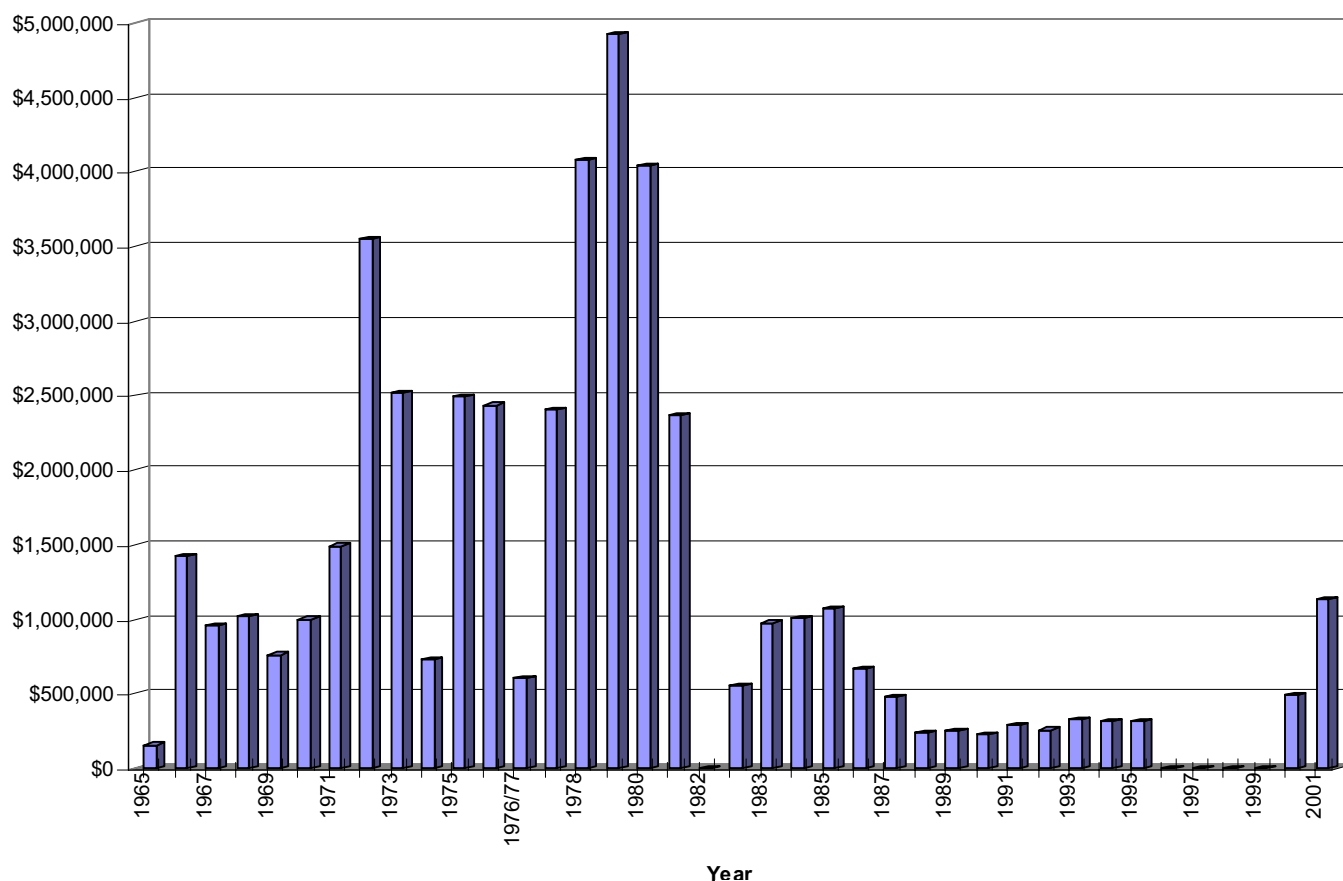
The LWCF program has provided very diverse benefits in its 35-year history in Iowa. The program provides up to 50% funding assistance and has funded projects ranging from land acquisition to park development and renovation to planning grants. The Table below shows the Iowa LWCF project summary from 1965 to 2001.

Number of Projects Funded by Jurisdiction and Project Type

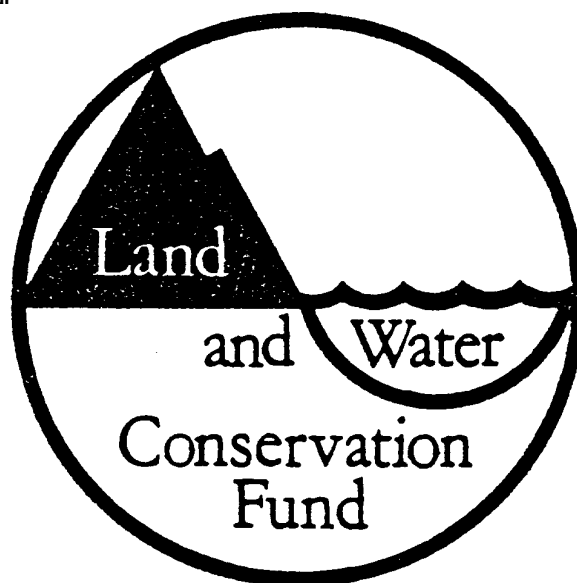
| | Local | County | State |
|------------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Acquisition | 52 | 147 | 60 |
| Development | 458 | 207 | 74 |
| Renovation | 21 | 1 | 3 |
| Acquisition and Development | 50 | 22 | 2 |
| Development and Renovation | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| Planning Grants | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Total | 588 | 380 | 150 |

From 1965 to 1995, the LWCF was an annual source of recreation funding for local governments in Iowa. The program did, however, experience a decline of funding available during the eighties and early nineties and eventually there were no funds available through the program from 1996 to 1999. After four years with no funding available through the LWCF, there were once again funds allocated in 2000. The following chart displays a summary of the amount of funds allocated from 1965 to 2001.

Iowa LWCF Apportionments 1965-2000



The chart plainly shows that funding through the LWCF has varied widely. During the late 1970's and early 1980's, appropriations to the State of Iowa ranged from \$2.4 million to nearly \$5 million. From 1990 to 2001, the largest apportionment was in 2001 at \$1,129,401. From 1996 to 1999 there were no LWCF allocations and during that time, it was unknown whether funding would become available again. In 2000, funds were once again allocated through the program. The future of the program is still uncertain. Several initiatives have been proposed which would reinstate the LWCF for the states with significant changes to the program possible.



IOWA DNR OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT PROGRAMS

The Iowa DNR has over 80 state parks and recreation areas where visitors can enjoy a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities. The Iowa DNR also has 90 state preserves totaling over 9,300 acres of land showcasing Iowa in its natural state. Although the State of Iowa provides numerous excellent outdoor recreation opportunities, the State also understands the importance of outdoor recreation opportunities at the local level. A reflection of this understanding is displayed through the various outdoor recreation grant opportunities administered by the DNR and available to local governments and public organizations. The Iowa Legislature established many of these grant programs in response to specific outdoor recreation needs. Many groups and organizations had a hand in developing the grant programs by working with the Department in the development of administrative rules. Their efforts help to inform the Legislature and the DNR of outdoor recreation needs and also help shape the specifics of each grant program.

The grant programs administered by the Iowa DNR provide funds for a wide variety of outdoor recreation needs. The main purposes of the programs are to acquire land and develop facilities. Acquisition can be for the purpose of preservation or for providing an area for recreational development to occur. Development activities range from improving and updating existing facilities to constructing new facilities. Whatever the scope of the project, the goal is to meet needs and changing trends in recreation.

Following is a brief synopsis of each relevant grant program administered by the Iowa DNR.



Recreation Infrastructure Grant Program (RIG)

The RIG program is a result of the Iowa Legislative Recreation Summit that was held in 1997. The Iowa General Assembly appropriates funds to the Iowa DNR to assist in the renovation, repair, or new construction of public recreation facilities and recreation trails through the "Rebuild Iowa's Infrastructure Fund".

The RIG program provides state financial assistance to cities, counties, organizations and associations in the State of Iowa for the purpose of acquisition, repair, renovation and development of public recreation complexes and trails. Special consideration is given to projects that involve public and private sector participation. Funds are provided in the form of grants covering one-third of total eligible project costs.

For more information on the Recreation Infrastructure Grant Program contact Arnie Sohn, Bureau Chief, Parks, Recreation and Preserves Division, at 515/281-5814.

Note: RIG funding was suspended for fiscal year 2001.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF), signed into law September 4, 1964, provides federal financial assistance to the State of Iowa and political subdivisions for the purpose of acquisition and/or development of land for outdoor recreation. The LWCF program is administered by the National Park Service (NPS). The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the program at the state level.

Funds are provided to the states and passed to political subdivisions in the form of 50 percent reimbursement grants. Reimbursements are made on all eligible expenditures up to the amount of the approved grant. Financial assistance through the LWCF is authorized through the year 2014. See page 34 for a more detailed description of the LWCF in Iowa.

For more information on the Land and Water Conservation Fund contact Arnie Sohn, Bureau Chief, Parks, Recreation and Preserves Division, at 515/281-5814.

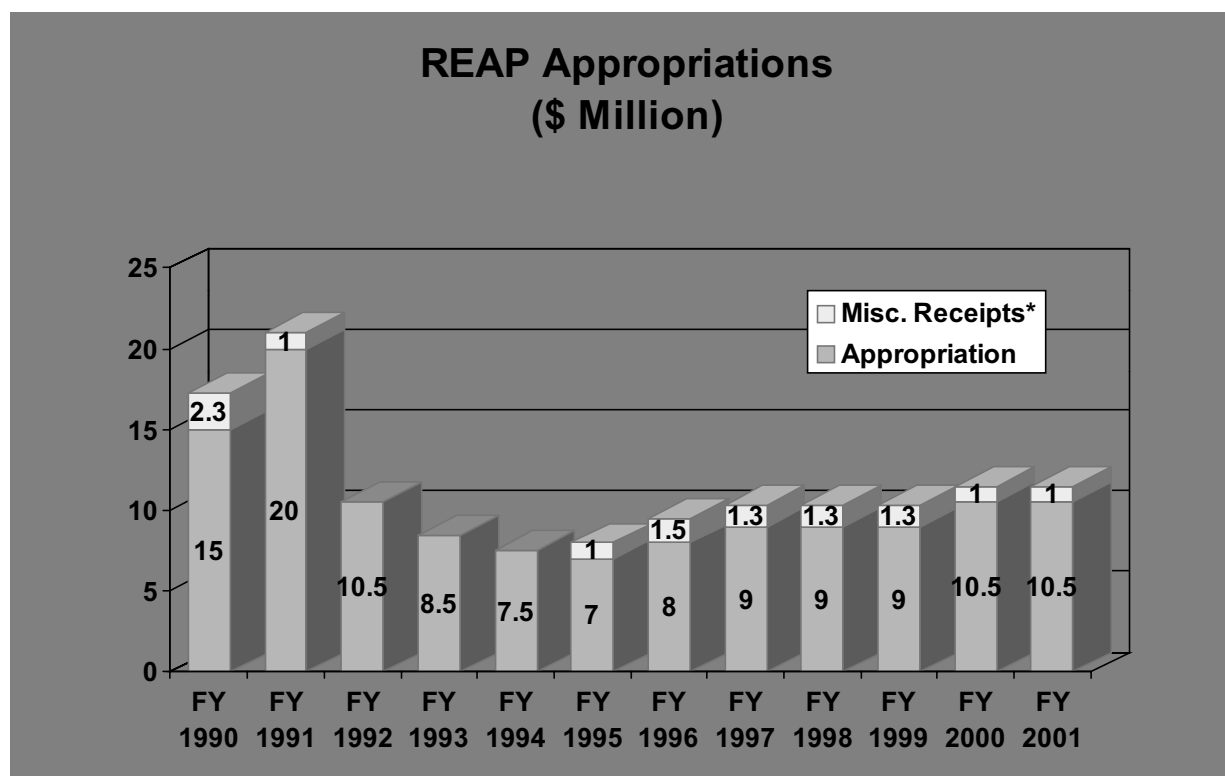
Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)

REAP is a major investment by the State of Iowa in its natural and cultural resources. Iowa is blessed with a diverse array of natural and cultural resources, and REAP is likewise diverse and far-reaching. Depending on the individual programs, REAP provides money for projects through agency budgets or in the form of grants. Several aspects of REAP encourage private contributions to help accomplish program objectives.

The following excerpt from the Code of Iowa sets the state's resource enhancement policy:

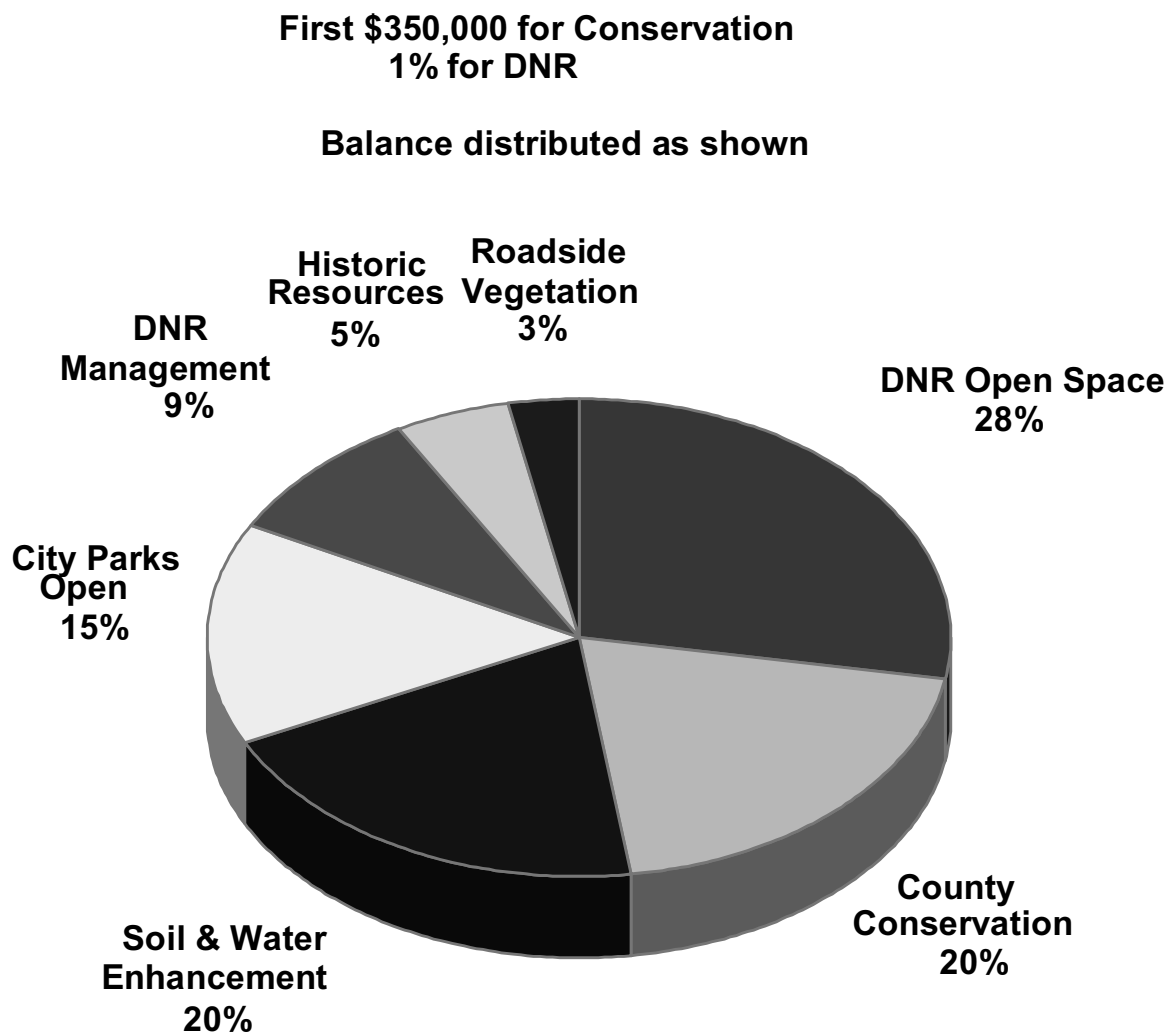
"It is the policy of the state of Iowa to protect its natural resource heritage of air, soils, waters, and wildlife for the benefit of present and future citizens with the establishment of a resource enhancement program. The program shall be a long-term integrated effort to wisely use and protect Iowa's natural resources through the acquisition and management of public lands; the upgrading of public park and preserve facilities; environmental education, monitoring, and research; and other environmentally sound means. The resource enhancement program shall strongly encourage Iowans to develop a conservation ethic, and to make necessary changes in our activities to develop and preserve a rich and diverse natural environment" (Chapter 455A.16, Code of Iowa).

REAP was originally authorized in 1989 for \$30 million per year for ten years. The state legislature in 1996 changed the authorization to \$20 million per year and extended the program's life to 2021. REAP is funded by the state's general fund and receipts from the sale of natural resource license plates. The REAP account is also allowed to keep any interest that it earns. The state legislature sets the amount of REAP funding every year. The program has never received its fully authorized annual amount. Its funding peaked in 1991 at \$20 million at a time when it was authorized for a maximum of \$30 million. Since that time, it has been receiving approximately half the authorized amount. The chart shown below presents the program's funding history.



* Miscellaneous receipts include Park User Fee Account transfer (FY 1990), Interest (FY 1990, 1991, 1995 -2001), and Natural Resource License Plate (FY 1995 - 2001).

REAP funds go into eight different programs based upon percentages that are specified in the law. These percentages are shown in the following pie chart.



The following are short descriptions of the REAP programs and identification of the state agency that is responsible for each one.

| Program | Responsible Agency | Description |
|--|--|--|
| Conservation Education | Department of Education | Competitive grants for continuing education workshops and developing conservation education material and curriculums. |
| DNR Administration | Department of Natural Resources | Funds available to DNR to help defray costs of administering REAP. |
| Open Space | Department of Natural Resources | Land acquisition and facility developments to expand state-managed public recreation opportunities and to accomplish resource protection and enhancement. One-tenth of allocation is set aside to cost share projects with private organizations and individuals. One-twentieth of the allocation is specified for Iowa's Protected Water Areas Program. |
| County Conservation | Department of Natural Resources | Allocations to all of Iowa's 99 county conservation boards and availability of competitive grants for land acquisition, facility developments, and conservation programs. |
| Soil and Water Enhancement | Division of Soil Conservation, Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship | Allocations to all of Iowa's 100 soil and water conservation districts and availability of competitive grants for soil conservation projects and practices that emphasize improving the quality of surface and ground water. |
| City Parks and Open Space | Department of Natural Resources | Competitive grants available to all cities for land acquisition and facility development to expand city parks and open space opportunities. Athletic complexes, swimming pools, and golf courses are not eligible for grant money. |
| State Land Management | Department of Natural Resources | Funds available to DNR for development and management of existing state conservation and recreation land. Most of the money is used for infrastructure in state parks. |
| Historical Resources Development Program | State Historical Society, Department of Cultural Affairs | Competitive grants available for historical preservation, library and archives, and museum projects. |
| Roadside Vegetation | Department of Transportation | Competitive grants available to cities, counties, and state agencies for establishing and maintaining native grasses and flowers along public roadways. |

Public Participation – REAP contains very extensive public participation procedures that are directed in the state law. Individual county REAP committees are organized throughout the state. Public and private organizations interested in REAP participate on county committees. The primary purposes of these committees are to coordinate REAP projects among the various entities and to prepare a county REAP plan to help guide future local REAP projects.

The next level of public participation is regional REAP assemblies. These are open public meetings where all REAP programs and projects are presented. Opportunities are also available for the public to make recommendations on changes to REAP policies, programs, and funding. The assemblies are held every even-numbered calendar year and involve seventeen public meetings held throughout the state.

The next and final level is the REAP Congress. Five delegates are elected at each of the seventeen assemblies to serve on the statewide Congress, which make a total of 85 participants. The REAP Congress meets during the summer of even-numbered calendar years. Its responsibilities are to organize, discuss, and make recommendations to the Governor, state legislature, and state agencies. The Congress uses the suggestions made at the seventeen assemblies to help form its recommendations.

Wildlife Habitat Fee Grant Program

In 1979, the Iowa General Assembly passed legislation requiring hunters and trappers (except residents who are handicapped or who are younger than sixteen or older than sixty-five years of age) to purchase a wildlife habitat stamp. The stamp was later eliminated but the requirement to pay a habitat fee remained. All revenue derived from the habitat fee shall be used within the state of Iowa for acquisition of land, or obtaining easements from willing sellers for use as wildlife habitats and for the development and enhancement of wildlife lands and habitat areas.

Approximately 240,000 hunters and trappers pay the habitat fee annually, generating \$1.2 million. The funds are divided with half the funds, approximately \$600,000, dedicated to state projects and the other half to be used by county conservation boards for habitat acquisition and development. The county funds are distributed through a competitive grant program. The State will provide 75% of funds while the county must match with 25% local funds. The local match can come from the county or other groups such as Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Iowa Wild Turkey Federation, etc... The county conservation portion of this fund has been used to purchase 30,000 acres since the grant program began in 1980.

The majority of funds dedicated to the state are used to expand large public wildlife areas in Iowa, and has resulted in the acquisition of over 20,000 acres. A portion of the state funding (approximately \$80,000) is used for cost-share programs on private lands such as the establish-

ment of 8-16 row shelterbelts. Approximately \$70,000 from the fund is used to reimburse property taxes to counties in which state land has been purchased with Habitat Stamp funding.

Applications for funds are reviewed and selected for funding during January and July of each year.

For more information on the Wildlife Habitat Fee Grant Program contact Dale Garner, Executive Officer 2, at 515/281-4815.

Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program



The Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program is a high priority within the DNR. The intent of this program is to improve existing access areas and acquire and develop additional public access areas on Iowa waters. Long range plans for

public access to Iowa waters call for at least one public access for every five river miles, and access to public lakes is needed. The Iowa Marine Fuel Tax Fund provides the primary funding source to carry out this program. Federal Sport Fish Restoration funds are also used to provide matching funds to these state monies.

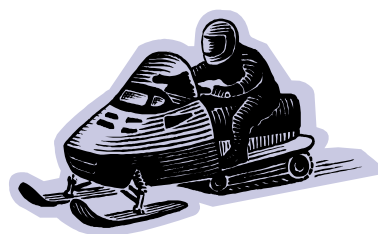
The DNR also administers a cost-share program to fund water access developments jointly with political subdivisions. Iowa Marine Fuel Tax dollars are used to fund 75% to 100% of the cost of these projects. Chapter 71-30 of the Iowa Administrative Code provides details of the cost-share program.

The Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program includes both acquisition of land and development phases for projects. Included in water access development projects are roads, parking areas, boat ramps, docks, lighting, restrooms, and other facilities and improvements needed to enhance access to water-related recreational activities. Sport Fish Restoration Funds are used to maintain many state owned ramps and accesses.

The Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program Committee uses Fisheries Bureau supervisors located around the state as the field liaison to recommend priorities for projects, classed either as new access areas or improvements to existing access areas. The DNR may enter into appropriate 28E or other management agreements with local sponsors, primarily county conservation boards, to operate and maintain many of the access areas.

Snowmobile and All-Terrain Vehicle Trail Grant Programs

Snowmobile Trail Grant Program



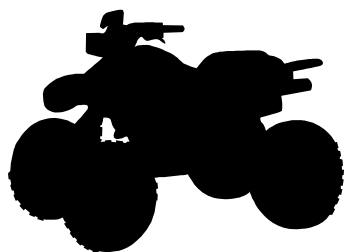
In 1970, the Iowa General Assembly passed legislation that established a state snowmobile law and registration fee. The legislation was encouraged by

the snowmobilers of Iowa as well as the State Conservation Commission (now the Iowa Department of Natural Resources) and provided funds to begin developing a public snowmobile system in Iowa.

The Snowmobile Trail Grant Program provides up to 100% grants for the acquisition of land, development and maintenance of snowmobile trails as well as appropriate facilities, all intended for public use.

Snowmobile Trail Grant Program applications are due by July 1 or the closest business day of each year.

All-Terrain Vehicle Trail Grant Program



On January 1, 1990, a \$26 biennial registration fee was instituted. These fees are placed in a dedicated account and are used to fund and administer the All-Terrain

Vehicle Trail Grant Program. The All-Terrain Vehicle Trail Grant Program provides 100% grants to communities, counties, organizations or associations for maintaining and developing ATV trails. Where appropriate, funds can also be used for development expenses including acquiring land to be used by the public for ATV riding.

Iowa currently has four areas that have been designated for public ATV use. The Motorcycle Industry Councils Retail Sales Report demonstrates the sports increasing popularity; ATV sales in Iowa increased 176% from 1995 through 2000. The number of registered machines in the state and the revenues derived from these fees have mirrored the increased sales.

Applications for funds for the All-Terrain Vehicle Trail Grant Program are due on April 1 or October 1 or the closest business day of each year.

To receive an application or for more information on the Snowmobile and All-Terrain Vehicle Trail Grant Programs contact Tony Toigo, ATV and Snowmobile Program Coordinator, at 515/281-6101.

OTHER PROVIDERS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

No single entity or level of government in Iowa comes close to providing all the diverse outdoor recreational resources, facilities and programs required to offer Iowans the full range of recreational options which they need and desire. The framework of institutions, each serving a portion of the public's need, is a complex one having evolved over time in response to public needs, resource management requirements, legislative direction, profit motivation, and many other complex economic and social factors.

These public and private institutions are the delivery system for outdoor recreation in Iowa. They have the responsibility to provide recreating Iowans with high quality recreational opportunities. As such, they are an integral part of the supply side of the balance between recreational demand and supply. Each is discussed briefly in the following paragraphs, along with a point of contact should the reader desire more information.

Federal Agencies and Their Involvement in Iowa Recreation Issues

I. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

Briefly, the Corps of Engineers manages:



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

* The four major flood control reservoirs in Iowa:

1. Coralville (Rock Island District)
2. Saylorville (Rock Island District)
3. Red Rock (Rock Island District)
4. Rathbun (Kansas City District)

* The Mississippi River Environmental Management Program

* The Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project.

Management responsibilities include major recreational developments. The Corps of Engineers also has permitting authority relative to construction projects on navigable streams and to wetland drainage projects under Section

404. Impacts of Corps developments are substantial, and indirect impacts stemming from the exercise of permit authority can produce substantial positive or negative impacts as well.

The Corps of Engineers also administers the Des Moines Recreation River and Greenbelt and a portion of the Saylorville Trail Corridor extending from the Saylorville Reservoir through the City of Des Moines.

Primary Contacts: District Engineers as follows:

Kansas City District (Lake Rathbun)
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
816/983-3415

St. Paul District (Pools 9 and 10, Mississippi River)
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
651/290-5200

Omaha District (Missouri River)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Omaha, Nebraska 68102
402/221-3916

Rock Island District (Pools 11 through 19, Des Moines Recreational River and Greenbelt and Saylorville, Red Rock and Coralville Lake)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Rock Island, Illinois 61204
309/794-5274

II. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)



This federal agency manages wildlife refuge lands in Iowa, including DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge in Harrison County, Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge in Kossuth County, Mark Twain Wildlife Refuge in Louisa County, Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge and Prairie

Learning Center in Jasper County and the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge on the Mississippi River in northeastern Iowa.

The USFWS has as its primary charge the management of wildlife habitats and the perpetuation of spe-

cies dependent on those habitats. Recreation benefits are an important but secondary purpose. The Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge is unique in that its primary purpose is the re-establishment of several thousand acres of tall grass prairie and savanna, and a broad educational program on Iowa's prairie heritage.

The USFWS also serves a major role in the review and development of wildlife mitigation recommendations on a variety of state and federal projects.

Primary Contact:

William Hartwig, Regional Director
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Office
BHW Federal Building
Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111
612/713-5360

III. Natural Resources Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture (NRCS)



The NRCS has as its primary role the planning and development of programs and practices aimed at controlling soil erosion. Control of soil erosion will improve water

quality and lengthen the useful life of public lakes and other bodies of water.

Additionally, the NRCS has constructed high quality, multipurpose lakes under its P.L. 566 program, with others in the planning stages. Field staff (district conservationists) regularly assist public recreation resource managers in developing soil conservation plans for public lands, and are also instrumental in implementing soil erosion control practices on private lands within the watersheds of publicly owned lakes. Such efforts enhance fishery and wildlife habitats as well as extending the useful life of impoundments thereby substantially increasing recreational benefits.

Primary Contact:

Leroy Brown
State Conservationist, NRCS
Federal Building
210 Walnut
693 Federal Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
319/284-4260

IV. National Park Service



This federal agency manages two sites in Iowa, Effigy Mounds National Monument in Allamakee County and the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch (Cedar County).

The Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska is responsible for the administration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program. The LWCF program is a federal grants cost-sharing program providing grants to state and local governments to help them acquire, develop and improve outdoor recreation areas.

Primary Contact:

William W. Schenk, Regional Director
National Park Service
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102
402/221-3471

State Agencies and Their Involvement in Iowa Recreation Issues

I. Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR)



The DNR is the primary provider of state-owned and state-managed recreational areas and facilities in Iowa. In total, the agency manages more than

80 park and recreation areas, 11 state forest areas, 340 wildlife management areas, and 35 waterfowl refuges. Additionally, fisheries managers are responsible for 36 natural lakes, over 200 man-made lakes, and are instrumental in fish rearing and stocking practices on 49 north-east Iowa trout streams and in some 300 farm ponds each year. The Environmental Protection Division of the DNR deals with floodplain construction regulations, air quality, and water quality improvement programs. The Energy and Geological Resources Division manages the State energy, geological and water resources by providing public policy, developing renewable energy resources, educating and assisting the public on energy conservation measures, serving as the principal repository for all geological and hydrological data and providing information on the availability and accessi-

bility of water and mineral resources. The Waste Management Division deals with long-term management of solid and hazardous wastes that affect Iowa's water, soil, and air quality.

The DNR is involved either directly or indirectly with all other federal, state, county, local and private recreation providers and is the principal contact for additional information on virtually any recreation and resource management topic. A brief description of recreational grant opportunities administered by the DNR can be found beginning on page 36.

Primary Contact:

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Director
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
515/281-5385

II. Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)



IDALS is directly involved in resource management programs which affect outdoor recreation through enactment of the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Act. One aspect of the multi-million dollar REAP program is the Soil and Water Enhance-

ment Account. This account receives 20% of REAP appropriations each year through the year 2001. Funds are available to landowners for soil and water conservation and enhancement projects and practices. Iowa's Soil and Water Conservation Districts and cooperating agencies have had a positive impact on developing and implementing water quality protection projects. Financial resources are authorized to support administrative, operational and personnel costs to implement projects. Districts have expanded their traditional erosion control programs to address the broader spectrum of agricultural, nonpoint source pollution and other water quality problems. Districts have also expanded their local working partnerships to bring together all resources necessary to address the identified problems.

Grant applications and program information are available at any of Iowa's 100 Soil Conservation District offices, normally located in county seats, or through the Des Moines DALS office.

Primary Contact:

James Gulliford, Director
Division of Soil Conservation
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
515/281-7043 or 281-6148

III. Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs

The State Historical Society of Iowa and the Iowa Arts Council are divisions of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. The Historical Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs became involved in the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program in 1989. One REAP program, administered by the Historical Division, is the Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP). Grants are available to individuals and businesses, as well as to non-profit organizations and agencies of Certified Local Governments. Certified Local Governments is a designation made by the National Park Service.

Grants awarded in this account support a wide variety of projects, ranging from conservation of photographs to preservation of buildings, from museum exhibits to newspaper microfilming. The REAP Historical Resource Development Program receives 5% each year of the annual REAP appropriation.

Primary Contact:

Lavon Grimes, REAP/HRDP Coordinator
State Historical Society of Iowa
600 East Locust
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
515/242-6194

IV. Iowa Department of Transportation



**Iowa Department
of Transportation**

The Iowa DOT is responsible for and offers many grant opportunities for outdoor recreational pursuits. Three of these programs are outlined below:

Living Roadway Trust Fund

The Resource Enhancement and Protection program provides to the Department of Transportation 3% of REAP appropriations annually through the year 2001 to carry out objectives of the Living Roadway Trust

Fund. This money is available for state, county and municipal management of roadside vegetation. Funds are specifically directed at integrated vegetation management with emphasis on native prairie grass plantings and maintenance with minimal chemical weed control.

Primary Contact:

Steve Holland
Office of Design-Roadside Development
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50010
515/239-1768

State Recreational Trails Program

The Department of Transportation has also been entrusted with administration of the State Recreational Trails Program. Briefly, as a result of Legislative action causing the preparation of the Iowa Statewide Recreational Trails Plan in 1990 and an update, "Iowa Trails 2000", completed in 2001, \$1 million is currently appropriated to the DOT for providing grants to governmental agencies and private non-profit organizations for the purpose of acquiring, constructing and improving recreational trails within the State. The State Recreational Trails Program funds public multiple purpose recreational trails. The grant requires a 25% local match and the trail must be maintained as a public facility for a minimum of 20 years. Proposed projects must be part of a statewide, regional, areawide, or local trail plan. As of June 30, 2001, \$17.6 million has been committed for 69 separate projects.

TEA-21 – Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century

The Federal Transportation Enhancements Program, also known as TEA-21, funds enhancement or preservation activities of transportation related projects. Trail projects may fall into one of three categories: trails and bikeways, historic preservation, or scenic and natural resources. A 20 to 30% local match is required, depending on whether the project has regional or statewide significance.

Primary Contact:

Nancy Burns
Office of Systems Planning
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50010
515/239-1621

V. Iowa Department of Economic Development.

IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Iowa's parks, open spaces and recreation facilities are all key components of Iowa's tourism industry. Ongoing coordination and

collaboration between the DNR and DED are essential if the State of Iowa is to realize the tourism potential that is inherent in Iowa's parks, open spaces and recreational opportunities. Two grant programs administered by DED which can be used for outdoor recreation activities are the Vision Iowa Program and the Community Attraction and Tourism Program.

Vision Iowa

The Vision Iowa program is designed to assist communities in the development and creation of major tourism facilities (minimum \$20 million in scope) for permanent cultural, recreational, entertainment and educational attractions available to the general public. Forms of assistance include grants, interest-bearing or non-interest-bearing loans, interim financing, interest subsidies, deferred payment loans, loan guarantees, float loans or other forms of assistance. Eligible applicants include a city, county, or public organization, or combination of these entities forming a 28E agreement pursuant to Iowa Code; or a school district in cooperation with a city or county.

Community Attraction and Tourism Program

The Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) program is designed to assist communities in the development and creation of multiple purpose attraction or tourism facilities. "Attraction" means a permanently located recreational, cultural, educational or entertainment activity that is available to the general public. Community attraction projects may include, but are not limited, to the following: museums, theme parks, cultural and recreational centers, recreational trails, heritage attractions, sports arenas and other attractions. A tourism facility draws people into the community from at least 50 miles (one way) from home. Projects sponsored by a city, county, public organization, or school district in cooperation with a city or county are eligible applicants.

For more information on both the Vision Iowa and CAT programs, visit the web site: <http://www.visioniowa.org>, or contact the Vision Iowa Program Coordinator at 515/242-4870.

Primary DED Contact:

Nancy Landess
Tourism Division
Iowa Department of Economic Development
200 East Grand
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515/242-4702

County Conservation Boards and Their Involvement in Iowa Recreation Issues

All counties in Iowa have county conservation boards formed under provisions of Chapter 350, of the Iowa Code. These boards are authorized to “acquire, develop, maintain, and make available to the inhabitants of the county, public museums, parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreational centers, county forests, wildlife, and other conservation areas, and ...encourage the orderly development and conservation of natural resources and to... provide adequate programs of public recreation.”

In essence, county conservation boards do many of the same things that the state Department of Natural Resources does, but on a scale commensurate with local desires and funding capabilities. County conservation boards participate in many cost-sharing programs with the DNR and other state agencies in program areas where state and local goals are complimentary. These cost-sharing programs include:

1. Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)
2. Wildlife Habitat Fee Grant Program
3. Marine Fuel Tax, Water Access (MFT)
4. Snowmobile Trail Development and Operation
5. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
6. Statewide Recreational Trails Program
7. Recreation Infrastructure Program (RIG)

Primary Contact:

Don Brazelton
Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards
405 SW 3rd Street, Suite 1
Ankeny, Iowa 50021
515/965-0192

Municipal Involvement In Iowa Recreation Issues

Iowa has over 950 municipalities of varying size and greatly varying structures to handle city recreation projects and programs. Many close-to-home recreation facilities are provided by city authorities and programs. The mayor or city clerk in each community is in the best position to describe current and planned municipal recreational programs. All 950+ communities in Iowa are surveyed every five years to secure updated recreation facility information. This information is available from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and is summarized on pages 20 - 25 of this plan.

Primary Contact:

Arnie Sohn, Program Administration Bureau Chief
Division of Parks, Recreation and Preserves
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
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Private Sector Involvement in Iowa Recreation Issues

Nonprofit Foundations

I. Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF)

The INHF was incorporated in 1979 to serve as an effective avenue to utilize the full potential of private sector assistance in natural area and resource protection. The mission of the Foundation is to build partnerships and educate Iowans to protect, preserve and enhance Iowa's natural resources for future generations. The Foundation works with private landowners, government agencies and potential funding sources, serving as a catalyst to bring about protective actions (acquisitions, fee title, conservation easements, preserve dedications, land donations, etc.). As a private entity, INHF enjoys a high degree of flexibility and a swift pace of action that is not always possible with government agencies.



Primary Contact:

Mark A. Ackelson, President
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Insurance Exchange Building, Suite 444
505 Fifth Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515/288-1846

II. Iowa Chapter, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)



The Nature Conservancy shares many goals with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. The

Iowa Chapter is a part of a national organization. The original Iowa Natural Areas Inventory Project was a product of a TNC nationwide effort to classify and inventory rare plants, animals, and natural communities in an effort to better direct funds and manpower toward the protection of threatened species. TNC's Registry Program provides landowner recognition and awareness of the presence of unique natural features, with a long-range goal of providing permanent protection and management through acquisition, preserve dedication, etc.

Primary Contact:

Margaret Collison, Director
Iowa Chapter, The Nature Conservancy
431 E. Locust, Suite 200
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
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III. Other Private Nonprofit Groups

The DNR maintains a mailing list of over 400 local sportsmen groups, wildlife and conservation clubs, etc. Regardless of the outdoor sport or resource concern, there is probably at least one organized group whose goals revolve around improving either the programs or resources supporting their special interests. These are important organizations and often provide valuable public input to state program proposals. Examples include the Izaak Walton League, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Iowa Rails To Trails, the Iowa Audubon Society, the Iowa Wildlife Federation, Iowa Trails Council, Iowa Trappers Asso-

ciation, the Iowa Turkey Federation, Sierra Club, Iowa Parks and Recreation Association, dozens of local or regional rod and gun clubs, equestrian groups, camper associations and many more.

Private Sector Profit-Motivated Groups

Recreation in many instances is synonymous with tourism, and tourism means substantial benefits to many local economies in Iowa. Recent years have witnessed a growing interest in private entrepreneurs seeking to capitalize on the economic opportunities generated by recreationists.

Council of Governments

The role that Iowa Areawide Planning Organizations or Regional Councils fulfill is important in bringing many opportunities to Iowa's towns, cities and counties, particularly those towns and cities with a small economic base from which to draw public funds that are not capable of hiring full-time planning staffs.

The primary goal of the Regional Councils is to serve local governments and citizens in the region by addressing issues and needs through communications, planning, advocacy, technical assistance and grant writing.

Regional Councils are voluntary associations of local governments providing a forum for officials to discuss mutual problems. They help officials identify and prioritize local and regional problems and seek solutions.

All Regional Councils employ a full-time professional staff that performs the actual planning, service delivery and administration activities. Regional Council staffs provide assistance to members in developing plans and programs including recreational plans. These organizations provide application and administrative assistance to members requesting federal and state grants and loans.

Of particular interest to the Iowa SCORP, is the assistance Regional Councils provide in the writing and administration of Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) applications, Recreation Infrastructure Grants (RIG), recreation plan development and Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) applications.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Strategic Plan For The Future of Iowa's State Preserves

The plan, completed in 2001, was developed by members of the State Preserves Advisory Board, DNR staff and outside advisors. The plan identifies its mission statement as follows:

We will work with the people of Iowa to identify and preserve areas with geological, biological, archaeological, historic or scenic features of scientific or educational value. We consider preserve status the highest, best and most important use of an area for the public benefit, and will maintain and enhance these protected lands as sanctuaries for present and future generations.

Through meetings held by the State Preserves Advisory Board, a number of key issues were identified and discussed as well as strategies and actions to overcome impediments and achieve goals. The issues were condensed into three main areas of concern and goals and strategies were developed to address each concern. The following are the three concerns and corresponding goals.

Concern #1 – The Preserves Board and the DNR staff have been unable to fully carry out all the duties necessary to maintain the preserve system and promote its growth.

Goal: Achieve the full potential of the preserves system.

Concern #2 – The preserves system should be managed in an ecologically and culturally responsible manner.

Goal: Develop and implement a long-range plan for the designation and management of preserves.

Concern #3 – The state preserve system faces challenges in developing public constituencies. We need to educate the public about the significance and value of the preserves. Public understanding, advocacy and legislative support for the state preserve system are essential if it is to survive and grow.

Goal: Garner public and legislative support for the preserve system.

A number of strategies for each concern are also outlined in the plan. For more information contact John Pearson, DNR, 515/281-3891.

Iowa Nonpoint Source Management Program

Section 319 was added to the Clean Water Act in 1987 to support state and local nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control efforts. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), through the Section 319 program, provides grant funds to states to implement NPS pollution control programs and projects.

In Iowa, the designated lead agency for the Section 319 program is the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The IDNR has received Section 319 funding annually since FFY90. These funds have increased over the years from the initial award in FFY90 of \$850,000 to the FFY01 award of \$5.3 million. While a portion of Iowa's funding supports program administration and implementation activities conducted by IDNR staff, the majority is used to support 3 to 5 year projects conducted by cooperating agencies and organizations.

Projects funded with Section 319 funding include: NPS information and education programs, demonstration of innovative and alternative Best Management Practices (BMPs) for controlling NPS pollution, implementation of NPS controls in priority lake and trout stream watersheds, and protection and restoration of other publicly owned waters impacted by NPS pollution where a need for such can be demonstrated and improvements can be expected.

Section 319 funds supported 48 water quality projects in Iowa during FFY2001. Of these, 22 were watershed projects, targeting coldwater streams, warmwater streams, lakes and groundwater. Activities conducted as part of these projects include promotion of CRP and other conservation farming practices, installation of buffer strips and streambank stabilization, and development and/or restoration of wetlands.

The main objective of these projects and activities is to improve water quality, which in turn will increase the recreational opportunities. Aquatic life is healthier, the fishery is more abundant and from a public perspective, the waters are more aesthetically desirable and healthier. In addition, with many of these practices, areas of the watersheds are more suitable for public recreation due to increase and improved wildlife habitat and better accessibility due to reduced soil erosion and sedimentation.

Park and Institutional Road Fund Program

The Department of Natural Resources is one of several state agencies that qualify for a portion of the road use tax monies allocated to the Park and Institutional Road Fund. Each year, DNR staff members coordinate with Department of Transportation personnel to determine needs for the construction, rebuilding, improvement, and maintenance of roads and bridges located within DNR parks, recreation areas, forests and wildlife management areas throughout the state.

The Iowa Code allows 0.65 percent of the road use taxes to be placed in the primary road fund for use in the Park and Institutional Road Fund. This transfer of funds is allocated by the Department of Transportation to the various agencies who administer roads which qualify under this program. Agencies besides the DNR include the Department of Human Services, State Department of Adult Corrections, State Board of Regents, Iowa Department of General Services, State Department of Education (merged area schools), State Fairgrounds, and Iowa National Guard (Camp Dodge).

Individual agency allocations are based on the most recent quadrennial highway needs study conducted by the DOT. Allocations to agencies are guided by the ratio of the needs of each agency's road system to the total needs of the agencies. The DNR typically receives approximately 50% of the total available. To qualify for funding, a road or street must normally lie within the boundaries of state lands operated as parks or institutions, and be open to the public for vehicular traffic. Jurisdiction and control over the road is vested in the park and institutional agency.

A principal program emphasis has been placed on ensuring that key existing gravel roadways are surfaced in order to enhance visitor safety, convenience and enjoyment. This emphasis is not at the expense of other needed projects or activities. There are approximately ten projects completed each year. High priority areas for new road system development include, for example, the Brushy Creek and Volga River State Recreation Areas. The DOT maintains a five-year program of Park and Institutional Road Fund projects. The program is reviewed and updated by participating agencies each year.

Protected Water Areas Program

The Protected Water Area (PWA) program was initi-

ated in 1978 with the preparation of the statewide Iowa Protected Water Areas General Plan to guide the program's development and implementation. This plan was completed in 1981, approved by the Department of Natural Resources and submitted to the state legislature. The legislature enacted the PWA law in 1984.

The basic purpose of the PWA program is to establish a system for designating portions of selected lakes, rivers, streams and marshes for the purpose of preserving, protecting and enhancing outstanding natural and cultural resources of water and associated land areas.

Iowa DNR Americans With Disabilities Act Policy Statement

Persons with disabilities are guaranteed specific rights in federally funded programs and activities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (PL 93-122), as amended (PL 93-516, PL 95-602). All recipients of federal funds must review and, if necessary, modify their programs and activities so that discrimination based on disability is eliminated. Subtitle A of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (PL101-336) extends the prohibition of discrimination in federally assisted programs established by section 504 of the rehabilitation Act of 1973 to all activities of State and local governments, excluding those that do not receive Federal financial assistance.

In essence, the programs, services, activities, and facilities of all State and local governments must be readily accessible to and usable by persons having a disability, including mobility, visual, hearing or mental impairments. Section 504 further defines a "person with a disability" to mean any person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment.

The Department of Natural Resources is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs, services and activities. To reaffirm this commitment and to meet the requirements set forth by Section 504 and ADA, the Department has examined its policies, programs activities and facilities to identify problems of inaccessibility and potential discrimination toward individuals with disabilities. This examination was conducted as a "Self-Evaluation" of employment and administrative practices, programs and facility accessibility.

Employment and Administrative Practices

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has instituted several actions to ensure equal and fair opportunity and treatment for individuals with disabilities. The Department is required by law to have an Affirmative Action Plan. A specific section of the plan pertains to affirmative actions for individuals with disabilities, including recruitment procedures, programs in state government, employment criteria, reasonable accommodations, etc. Upon assessment and determination of individual needs the Department will, within reason, remove on-the-job physical barriers which will interfere with the ability of an employee who has a disability, to perform his or her job.

As a recipient of federal funds, the Department is required to provide assurance that it will comply with Civil Rights requirements in its development and research projects. As the administrative liaison of federal funds to local governmental entities, it is the responsibility of the Department to inform each recipient of its duties and responsibilities to comply with Civil Rights requirements.

The Department is required to provide continuous notification to the public regarding its policy of non-discrimination and its procedures for filing complaints. The Department proclaims its policy and procedures through its printed publications, park brochures, program materials, posters, permit applications and registration forms.

Program Accessibility

Achieving “program accessibility” is the key to compliance with Section 504 and ADA. Park and recreation agencies, like the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, are required to “operate each program or activity so that a program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities.” Furthermore, a major objective of Section 504 is that programs be accessible to people with disabilities in the “most integrated setting appropriate.” In most instances, with few or possibly no adjustments at all, this setting will be the same as that for the non-disabled person. The intent is to keep the segregation, separation or different treatment of persons with disabilities, except when necessary to ensure program participation, to a minimum.

“Facility accessibility” is one method in achieving pro-

gram accessibility. However, it is important to note that emphasis is on making programs accessible. Section 504 and ADA does not mandate the alteration of existing facilities or the construction of new facilities just to accommodate the disabled. Only where there is no other feasible means to achieve program accessibility are structural modifications to existing facilities required. However, in instances of new construction and alterations of existing facilities for reasons other than Section 504/ADA and achieving program accessibility, structural accessibility must be provided.

Most people view “accessibility” in terms of physical access to a site or facility, typically by a person who uses a wheelchair. True accessibility extends beyond the important considerations of physical barriers. The person with a disability must have the same opportunity as other people to enjoy what is there. Accessibility to programs includes being able to physically use a site or a facility and, to enjoy and benefit from the experience of participating in the program, service or activity.

As means of improving program accessibility, the Department has conducted a facility inventory and evaluation to assess the accessibility of parks and recreational sites. This inventory compiled data on buildings and the physical support necessary to use them such as restrooms, dining halls, showers, and walkway gradients and it assessed various recreational areas such as shoreline fishing access. At the time of the survey, the facilities were placed in one of four categories, A through D. Category A facilities were accessible to individuals with disabilities; category B facilities would be accessible with minor modifications; category C facilities could be accessible but only with major modifications; and category D facilities represented those facilities where modifications are not practical.

The Department of Natural Resources recognizes that existing accessibility does not completely accommodate the needs of people with disabilities. Recognizing these deficiencies, the Department can ensure that every program and activity is sensitive to the needs of people with disabilities and that these program deficiencies are being and will continue to be corrected in a timely manner.